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STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE
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STATEWIDE AIR RAID ALERT TEST AND SCHOOL DEMONSTRATIONS - OCTOBER 15, 1952

PART I - GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The State Council of Civil Defense has scheduled a statewide air raid alert test for Wednesday, October 15, 1952 and has requested all public, private and parochial high schools within the State to stage local civil defense demonstrations on the same afternoon. This date in the middle of Pennsylvania Week was chosen for both exercises because they naturally tie in with this year's Pennsylvania Week slogan "Pennsylvania Defends Freedom". Detailed information concerning both the test alert and the school demonstrations is presented below.

PART II - TEST AIR RAID ALERT

2. The October 15, 1952 air raid alert test has been scheduled in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the State Council of Civil Defense Act of 1951. The three primary purposes of the test are:

(a) To provide an opportunity for test of public air raid warning systems;
(b) To school the public in basic air raid procedures; and
(c) To gain experience necessary to the promulgation of practical rules and regulations to be enforced in the event of enemy attack.

3. County and Local Civil Defense Directors, actively assisted by county, city, borough, town and township officials, shall be responsible for conducting the test in accordance with the following general provisions:

(a) Date. Wednesday, October 15, 1952.
(b) Time. 1:50 through 1:57 P.M., E.S.T.
(c) Objective. The general aim of the test shall be to bring all non-essential activities to a halt and have the public "take cover".
(d) Types of Alerts. Two types of public alerts will be sounded, namely, a "red" alert and a "white" alert.
(e) Source of Alerts. The red and white alerts will not be "fanned out" from key-point warning centers, although they will be transmitted over that portion of the bell-and-lights system now installed and in operation. Instead of the "fan out", county and local civil defense officials will be expected to make some particular individual, or individuals, responsible for the sounding of local siren, horn and whistle alarms in accordance with provisions (f) and (h) below.
(f) Red Alert. A red alert (consisting of a three-minute "warbling" of sirens, a three-minute series of short blasts on horns and whistles, or a combination of the two) shall be sounded beginning precisely at 1:50 P.M. and ending exactly at 1:53 P.M.
(g) "Attack Period". The theoretical "period of attack" will begin at 1:53 and end at 1:56 P.M. While "enemy" planes will be in the air over some areas, no attempt to simulate raid conditions by fire, explosion or otherwise locally shall be made between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M.
(h) White Alert or "All Clear" Signal. A white alert, or "all clear" signal, (consisting of a one-minute steady blast of sirens and/or horns and whistles) shall be sounded beginning precisely at 1:56 P.M. and ending exactly at 1:57 P.M.

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(i) Radio and TV Broadcasts. All Pennsylvania radio stations will be furnished a special 15-minute radio "platter" and will be requested to broadcast it during the period 1:45 to 2:00 P.M. This transcription will include a request for public cooperation made by Governor Fine, detailed air raid instructions and properly timed "soundings" of both the red and the white alerts. In addition, attempts to provide some sort of effective television program also are being made.

(j) Military Activities. Except where Commanding Officers may deem it advisable to have either military or civilian personnel participate in the test, no attempt shall be made to halt, or otherwise disrupt, activities within the boundaries of military posts, reservations, installations and facilities. Except as exempted by specific regulations herein set forth, non-essential military activities outside the limits of recognized military establishments (e.g. movements of personnel and material) shall be conducted in accordance with general test regulations.

(k) Civil Defense Activities. Only those county and local civil defense officials responsible for conduction of the test and those civil defense auxiliary police specifically assigned to traffic control and related duties will be called to action during the test. Control centers need not be manned and wardens will not be expected to enforce the test regulations. While Ground Observers and Filter Center Workers will man their posts in accordance with regular Skywatch assignments, the majority of the State's civil defense volunteers will be expected during this particular test only to comply with the general regulations pertaining to the civil population. (Later tests will bring the entire civil defense organization into action.)

(l) Police Cars, Fire Engines, Ambulances and Other Emergency Vehicles. Every effort shall be made to expedite all necessary movement of police cars, fire engines, ambulances and other emergency vehicles during the period of alert, extending from 1:50 to 1:57 P.M. However, no movement of emergency vehicles solely for training or display purposes shall be permitted between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M.

(m) Public Utilities. There shall be no general stoppage of public utility services, including construction and repair work. However, all individuals are requested to refrain from making non-essential and personal telephone calls between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M.

(n) Industrial Production. Except where the individuals directly in charge may deem it advisable to participate in the test, no attempt shall be made to halt, or otherwise disrupt, industrial production, particularly that in any way related to the defense effort.

(o) Construction Projects. There need be no stoppage of work on major industrial, highway or public construction projects, but all persons engaged in non-essential and minor construction activities (e.g. the building of private homes) will be expected to comply with general test regulations.

(p) Rail and Military and Commercial Air Traffic. No attempt shall be made to halt, or otherwise disrupt, rail, military or regularly scheduled commercial air traffic during the period of the test. However, all passengers debarking from trains and commercial planes between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M. will be expected immediately to enter the station, or terminal building, and remain "under cover" there until completion of the white alert at 1:57 P.M.

(q) Subway and Elevated Trains. Metropolitan elevated railway and subway trains will continue to operate on schedule. However, passengers debarking from such trains between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M. shall remain "under cover" and not leave the station and go out onto the street prior to 1:57 P.M.

(r) River, Lake, Canal and Harbor Traffic. No attempt shall be made to halt the movement of commercial ships, barges or harbor craft. Insofar as practical, however, all pleasure craft on lakes and rivers and in harbors and close to shore will be expected either to tie up at piers or drop anchor and remain motionless between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M.

(s) Indoor Business and Commercial Operations. Except where responsible officials wish actively to participate in the test, the owners and operators of stores, banks, hotels and other indoor places of business may continue operations during this particular test. It is incumbent upon them, however, to confer with

local civil defense officials and to develop and adopt at an early date standard air raid alert procedures covering their offices and places of business. (In later tests both their employees and their customers, clients or guests will be expected to proceed to designated shelter areas.)

(t) Outdoor Business and Commercial Operations. Gasoline station owners and operators and other individuals conducting non-manufacturing operations not under roof, will be expected to suspend business during the alert and request their employees and customers to "take cover" inside buildings.

(u) Street and Highway Traffic, including Buses. All private and commercial automobiles, trucks, taxis, buses and other vehicles on all public highways, roads and streets except the Pennsylvania Turnpike (see below), shall be brought to a halt as soon after beginning of the red alert as is consistent with public safety. In stopping, all drivers will be expected to "pull to the side" and stop in such position as to leave at least one lane and all intersections open to the passage of emergency vehicles. They also shall adhere to such local regulations (clearing of bridges and tunnels, entry into side streets, etc.) as may be adopted and publicized by local civil defense and police officials in advance of the test. While stopped, vehicle engines shall be turned off and both drivers and occupants shall remain in their respective vehicles until completion of the white alert, or "all clear" signal. (The only exception is that the drivers of horse-drawn vehicles shall get out, stand at the animal's head and hold its reins.) Upon completion of the white alert at 1:57 P.M., normal movements will be resumed.

(v) Turnpike Traffic. All vehicles actually on the Pennsylvania Turnpike will continue to move during the period of alert. However, between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M., the movement of all traffic entering and leaving the Turnpike will be subject to rigid control at Interchange Ticket Booths.

(w) Street and Interurban Railways. All street railway cars will be expected to come to a stop as soon after initiation of the red alert as is consistent with public safety, except that no car shall stop "in the middle of" street intersections. Interurban railway cars operating inside city, borough or town limits shall also stop as soon after initiation of the alert as is consistent with public safety. Those traveling in rural areas will continue to move, but shall come to a stop at an appropriate spot should they reach the limits of a city, borough or town at any time between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M. All passengers shall remain in the cars and movement will resume at 1:57 P.M.

(x) Non-Scheduled Commercial and Private Air Traffic. All non-scheduled commercial and private aircraft actually in the air during the period of the alert shall continue toward their destinations. However, no such aircraft shall taxi on taxi ways or runways preparatory to taking off, nor shall they take off between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M., the period of alert.

(y) Funeral Processions. Funeral processions on streets and highways will be expected to "pull to one side" and remain motionless between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M. To eliminate inconvenience and confusion, funeral directors diplomatically should attempt arrangements which will obviate necessity for the movement of funeral processions between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M.

(z) Special Military and Government Transportation. Insofar as possible, all vehicles engaged in special military and government transportation activities legally requiring continued movement on streets and highways between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M. shall make advance arrangements for police escort covering all such movements during the period of alert.

(aa) Emergency Calls. Doctors and other persons required by unforeseen emergency to travel on streets or highways between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M. shall request local police headquarters, or the nearest available police representative, to furnish them with police escort for such travel.

(bb) Theaters. The owners and operators of theaters and other indoor places of amusement may continue operations during this particular test. It is particularly incumbent upon them, however, to confer with local civil defense officials and to develop and adopt at an early date standard air raid alert procedures covering their places of business, as the construction of many of them is such as to require their evacuation in case of real emergency. (Later tests will call for actual practice in the adopted procedures.)

(cc) Schools and Colleges. All schools and colleges, except those regularly ending their day prior to the time of the test, will be expected to follow out procedures which will at least place all students, faculty members and employees "under cover" during the alert. Athletics and other outdoor activities should be suspended between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M.

(dd) Federal, State and Local Government Offices. All federal, state and local government offices, whether in public or privately-owned buildings, will be expected to have prescribed alert procedures for all employees and to carry them out in the test at least in modified form. For example, employees in offices situated in large buildings may not have time during this test to descend to designated shelter areas on lower floors, but they will at least be expected to move to inner hallways or other places of comparative safety.

(ee) Other Institutions. Hospitals, prisons, libraries, museums and all other private, semi-public and public institutions are expected to have prescribed air raid alert procedures, but such institutions shall participate in this short test only to the extent deemed advisable by the persons in charge.

(ff) Private Homes, Apartments and Other Dwelling Places. All people who are in their homes at the start of the test will be expected to remain inside until the white alert has ended. They strongly are urged to listen to the special broadcast carried by Pennsylvania radio stations.

(gg) On the Street and Out-of-Doors. All people on the street or out in their yards when the red alert sounds will be expected to "take cover" and remain there until the "all clear" has sounded. Persons on sidewalks in "downtown areas" will be expected to get inside buildings, preferably those designated as shelters if readily available. In residential sections and wherever else pedestrians find it impossible to go inside, they should stand in doorways, on porches or in similar places to indicate the fact that they realize the importance of "taking cover". It is highly important that all children "take cover" during alerts and all adults will be expected to help get children "under cover" during this and all subsequent tests.

(hh) Farm and Forest Areas. People working out-of-doors in agricultural and forested areas, together with hunters and fishermen, will not be expected to "take cover" during the alert. However, all farm and other vehicles on public roads will be expected to come to a stop between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M.

(ii) Travelers. While rail, aircraft and most other forms of public transportation will continue to operate according to regular schedules, all persons planning to board trains, planes, buses, ships and the like between 1:45 and 2:15 P.M. on the day of the test are cautioned in leaving to make due allowance for delays caused by traffic stoppage while en route to stations, airports and piers.

(jj) Exit from Buildings. Except for those persons specifically covered by other regulations herein set forth, no person shall be expected to leave a building or other place of "cover" and go out-of-doors during the period of alert.

4. The success of the October 15 test will be dependent in large measure upon two factors, namely: (a) Advance planning carried out by county and local civil defense and government officials, and (b) advance publicity given the test in local communities.

5. To assure the development of effective plans for sounding the red and white alerts, for local traffic control and for other features of the test, County and Local Civil Defense Directors and members of their staffs should confer and work closely with those representatives of local government directly concerned, particularly local police officials.

6. So that the public may be fully informed of their test responsibilities, county and local civil defense and government officials should enlist the help of local newspapers, radio and TV stations, and similar organizations in publicizing local regulations governing the test.

7. Colonel C. M. Wilhelm, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, has ordered all Members of the State Police to extend to civil defense, county and local officials full cooperation in highway traffic control and general police activities. However, primary responsibility for the development and carrying out of plans for traffic control and for other police functions rests with county and local officials. The latter should anticipate their problems (clearing of bridges, entry of out-of-state traffic, etc.) and make all necessary arrangements to meet them. These and all like plans must be given widespread publicity.

PART III - SCHOOL DEMONSTRATIONS

8. Every Pennsylvania high school, public, private and parochial, has been requested to have its students stage a special civil defense demonstration following the air raid alert test and beginning at 2:00 P.M., E.S.T., on Wednesday, October 15, 1952.

9. The purpose of the school demonstrations is to portray each particular community's role in civil defense. For example, one school may simulate the direct effects of a bomb attack and show how the victims would be rescued and treated. Another may decide to show how their community would care for injured and homeless people from other areas.

10. Doctor Francis B. Haas, Superintendent of Public Instruction, has addressed a letter to all County and District School Superintendents soliciting their cooperation in staging the school demonstrations. In addition, the State Council of Civil Defense has furnished each school head concerned with a copy of the special booklet "Suggestion for Schools in the Celebration of Pennsylvania Week" for use as a guide in the development of their demonstrations.

11. County and Local Civil Defense Directors will extend to local school officials and students all possible assistance in development and presentation of their programs. They will be expected to furnish technical advice concerning details of the presentations. Where the participation of local fire and police departments and other government agencies is desired, the Civil Defense Directors should assume responsibility for making arrangements for such participation. Finally, the Civil Defense Directors will aid in arranging for local publicity relating to the school demonstrations.

PART IV - RELATED INFORMATION

12. Since the October 15 test alert and school demonstrations will be a major feature of Pennsylvania Week, all County and Local Civil Defense Directors will be expected to serve as Functional Chairman for Civil Defense on their respective County and Local Pennsylvania Week Committees.

13. Because of its unusual importance and because of the time factor involved, this circular is being mailed not only to County Civil Defense Directors, but also directly to all Sector and Local Directors to date appointed by Governor Fine. Additional copies are being furnished to Pennsylvania Week officials, to high school heads, to mayors and burgesses of all cities, boroughs and towns, to a statewide list of local police officials and to a limited number of other individuals directly concerned.

14. State Civil Defense Directors in all states surrounding Pennsylvania are being furnished with copies of this circular and requested to publicize the scheduled alert in order to assure maximum cooperation on the part of out-of-state automobile drivers in, or entering, Pennsylvania at the time of the alert. In addition, County Civil Defense Directors in border counties of the Commonwealth should request newspapers and radio stations in adjoining counties in surrounding states to publicize the fact that all Pennsylvania highway traffic will be halted between 1:50 and 1:57 P.M., E.S.T., on Wednesday, October 15, 1952.

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Director of Civil Defense

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